

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Troop Training in East Germany

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The training program for Soviet troops in Eastern Germany, other countries, and all military districts in the USSR was formulated by the Armed Forces Ministry, in Moscow, in Order #0020, dated early in 1953 (February or March). This order applied to all branches and services, and stipulated the exact number of hours to be devoted to training in specific subjects and to technical work performed by line and technical units.

2. This annual training cycle in Eastern Germany [redacted] was as follows: 25X1

15 or 20 October to 1 April

- Winter training

1 April to 15 April

- Inspection of units by commission from GOFG and Moscow

15 April to 1 October

- Summer training

1 October to 15 or 20 October

- Inspection by GOFG and/or a Moscow commission, and maneuvers.

25X1

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ARMY review completed.

[illegible]

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

25X1

3. The daily routine for officers and EM of the 1787th Army Motor Transport and Tractor Spare Parts Dump was as follows:

0600 Reveille
 0605-0615 Physical training
 0615-0700 Personal hygiene (EM made their beds)
 0700-0730 Political news (reading of current events)
 0730-0800 Breakfast
 0800-1300 Work in depot (occasional training on weapons, nomenclature, lecture on CW, medical topics, close-order drill)
 1300-1500 Dinner for officers
 1300-1400 Dinner for EM
 1400-1700 Work in Depot for EM
 1500-1700 Work in Depot for officers
 1700-1800 EM detailed for work in barracks-- Officers checked Depot stocks
 1800-1900 Free time
 1900-2000 Supper
 2000-2100 or 2200 Mass political discussions
 2100 or 2200- Free time
 2200 or 2300
 2200 or 2300 Taps

4. [redacted] inspected the training, which was conducted by [redacted] officers, once weekly. In line units the NCO's and junior officers conducted the training under the supervision of company and battalion CO's. 25X1
5. Twice annually an Armed Forces Ministry commission, consisting of general and field grade officers from Moscow, GOFG and the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army, inspected the over-all efficiency of Army units, e.g., physical fitness, weapons training, discipline, and political orientation. In 1952 this commission gave the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army a rating of "4" (5 was excellent; 4 - good; 3 - satisfactory; 2 - unsatisfactory; and 1 - terrible.) The commission found discipline to be poor in the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army, however, and stated that there was too much drunkenness in this unit.
6. At the Military Council [redacted] meeting after the inspection in 1952, Maj. Gen. (fnu) KALINICHENKO was told that the discipline of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army had been better under Lt. Gen. (fnu) OBUKHOV, who was replaced as CG of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army in 1951 by KALINICHENKO. KALINICHENKO was ordered to enforce stricter discipline. 25X1
7. During motor moves truck convoys moved at a speed of 30 km. an hour. The distance between trucks in a convoy was about 20 m. Usually each company formed its own convoy, but convoys could consist of three trucks or of several hundred trucks. Guides were posted in advance at all road junctions, and were picked up by the last truck. Motor breakdowns, which occurred rarely, did not delay a convoy. The convoy continued, and a wrecker towed the non-operating truck. 25X1
8. [redacted] Soviet vehicles were fitted with one blacked-out headlight, which was attached to the right front mudguard. The headlight was covered with a dark, opaque paint, leaving only a small slit for the passage of light.
9. In the 1787th Spare Parts Depot, NCO's received only four hours of refresher chemical warfare training annually. Privates were supposed

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

25X1

to have had CW training in basic training. Officers considered CW lectures a nuisance and avoided them. There was no emphasis on CW training in the USSR or GDR. Gas masks were all of World War II stock. [] it required about eight seconds to don a gas mask. 25X1

10. The best officers in the Soviet Army were graduates of the Suvorov military schools. These officers were well mannered, very competent in their particular branch, and possessed a good background of general military knowledge. There was no instruction on leadership for officers and NCO's in Eastern Germany. NCOs practiced leadership under supervision of junior officers while performing the regular training of their squads or platoons.
11. Political lectures emphasized that the USSR was a peace loving country, anxious to preserve peace on all continents. However, because US and British imperialists were getting ready to start a war, the lecturers reasoned, the USSR had to be ready to defend herself and to destroy the imperialists in order to maintain peace. The lectures stressed that a cold war existed at present, but that it could change into a shooting war at any moment.
12. [] no airborne or air-transported training in Eastern Germany. [] such training existed in the USSR, [] 25X1
13. [] consider a soldier to be ready for combat after completing a two-month's basic course. [] cannot say how much training a regiment, division or army needed before being combat ready, and do not know what standards determined combat readiness. 25X1
14. A soldier usually fired 12 rounds annually, but only from the weapon assigned to him; he was not permitted to fire other weapons.
15. All newly inducted EM had two months of basic training in the USSR. Upon assignment to line units, for military and political training, they were placed in three types of squads: one for recruits, one for men in their second year, and one for men in their third year.

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